

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: Limited
13 February 2018

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Sixty-first session**

Vienna, 12–16 March 2018

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Follow-up to the special session of the General
Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016,
including the seven thematic areas of the outcome
document of the special session****United States of America: draft resolution****Enhancing international cooperation to combat the synthetic
opioid crisis***The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

Reaffirming its commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl-related compounds, and reaffirming further its determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such drugs and substances and prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking,

Recalling the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,¹ in its entirety, reiterating that the operational recommendations contained therein are integrated, indivisible, multidisciplinary and mutually reinforcing and are aimed at a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Acknowledging with grave concern the international challenge posed by the increased trafficking in synthetic opioids, in particular fentanyl-related compounds, to public health and security, and noting that drug traffickers are exploiting the market with innovative methods such as the sale of synthetic opioids and chemicals online and their distribution through the international mail system and express consignment carrier shipments so as to make available for the purpose of abuse an increasing number of synthetic opioids in addition to and as alternatives to internationally controlled drugs,

Recognizing that a comprehensive global response, including international scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful synthetic opioids, is required

* E/CN.7/2018/1.

¹ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

to curb the threat posed by trafficking in and abuse of synthetic drugs at the national, regional and international levels,

Determined to strengthen national and international action to address the challenges posed by synthetic opioids, including their adverse health consequences, and underscoring the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early-warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, regulatory, prevention and treatment models and supporting the scientific evidence-based review and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances,

Recognizing the important roles played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization as the principal bodies and global focal points for the international surveillance of non-scheduled substances, including synthetic opioids,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2017 under the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme entitled "Fentanyl and its analogues: 50 years on" as important for the enhancement of international understanding of the threats posed by fentanyl and its analogues,

Reiterating the importance of further strengthening existing international cooperation mechanisms for the control of synthetic opioids, including through the participation of Member States in international database platforms supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, with a view to gathering information, on a voluntary basis, on all the factors relevant to the integral monitoring and analysis of trafficking and use trends related to synthetic opioids,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the World Health Organization, including its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, to regularly review new trends in synthetic opioids, in particular fentanyl-related compounds, for potential control under the international drug control conventions,

1. *Urges* Member States to strengthen cooperation efforts at the bilateral, regional and global levels to combat demand for and trafficking in synthetic opioids with a view to protecting the health and security of our citizenries;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to explore innovative approaches to more aggressively tackle the synthetic opioid crisis through emergency action, including a broadening of domestic controls of synthetic opioids, requests that Member States provide information to the Secretariat on national efforts to address the crisis no later than at its reconvened sixty-first session, in December 2018, and also requests the International Narcotics Control Board to report on any such information received from Member States during the reconvened sixty-first session;

3. *Urges* Member States to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization in accelerating the process of issuing recommendations for the inclusion of synthetic opioids in the international control regime, in particular through more frequent meetings of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization and increased data-sharing using the existing online portals supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization to continue their efforts to develop new and innovative approaches to better address the issue of synthetic opioids, including by preventing and coping with their abuse by updating, publicizing and disseminating reports on the latest trafficking and use trends related to synthetic opioids, along with making such information accessible through the existing online portals and targeting new paradigms in the world drug problem;

5. *Urges* Member States to actively participate in early warning networks and promote the use of drug surveillance lists and voluntary controls and the sharing of relevant information through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, and enhance bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation in the identification and reporting of synthetic opioids and incidents involving them and, to that end, strengthen the use of national, regional and international established reporting and information exchange systems, such as, where appropriate, the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Project Ion of the International Narcotics Control Board;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Member States to share, as appropriate, relevant information with and strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, and other relevant international and regional organizations to prioritize the review of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful synthetic opioids and to facilitate informed scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

7. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, and relevant regional and international organizations to collect data, analyse evidence and share information with respect to trafficking in synthetic opioids conducted via the Internet, the international mail system and express consignment carrier shipments, and to continue to strengthen legal, law enforcement and criminal justice responses, based on national legislation and international cooperation, so as to curb such activities;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, to convene a meeting of governmental experts on the international crisis posed by synthetic opioids to learn more about the challenges and mobilize a coordinated and strategic international response;

9. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Member States to take action to enhance coordination regarding a global response to the threats posed by synthetic opioids at the national, regional and international levels, to learn more about the challenges posed by the synthetic opioid crisis and to advance strategic solutions as part of such a coordinated response;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to increase awareness of the critical threats posed by synthetic opioids by appointing a global focal point within the United Nations system to facilitate efforts by Member States to respond to the synthetic opioid crisis;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.